



**Council Member Motion  
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 16, 2020**

---

**Date:** April 15, 2020  
**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt and Councillor Sarah Potts  
**Subject:** Securing Indoor Sheltering Options for Vulnerable Populations

---

**Recommendation:**

That Council endorses the following resolution and directs staff to act on it with immediate effect:

**Resolution: Securing Indoor Sheltering Options for Vulnerable Populations**

*WHEREAS* the Chief Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Island, Dr. Richard Stanwick, advised the City of Victoria and other public agencies on March 17, 2020 that these entities had four days to identify a sheltering solution for street-involved people in the 900-block of Pandora Avenue to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19 within that vulnerable population;

*AND WHEREAS* thirty days have passed since Dr. Stanwick provided this advice to the City, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the BC Rental Housing Management Corporation (BC Housing);

*AND WHEREAS* emergency sheltering options established by the City, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and BC Housing in approximately 120 motel rooms and a temporary sheltering area at Topaz Park are insufficient to meet the demand for emergency lodging and supports for approximately 200-300 street-involved people in the City of Victoria;

*AND WHEREAS* the City of Victoria Emergency Plan provides for the direct provision of emergency lodging and supports during emergencies;

*AND WHEREAS* Victoria City Council has authorized funding and provided direction to staff to deploy City of Victoria resources, facilities and personnel to meet the emergency lodging and support needs of unhoused people;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Victoria City Council directs staff to act immediately using previously authorized funding to book a sufficient supply of transient accommodation units and other vacant housing units to provide indoor sheltering options and supports for unhoused people in the City of Victoria, aiming for cost-recovery from the Provincial government after the crisis has passed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Isitt'.

Councillor Isitt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Potts'.

Councillor Potts